GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Godavari Maha Pushkaram 2015 – Godavari Harathi – Arrangements at Rajahmundry – Regarding.

REVENUE (ENDTS.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 236 **Date: 29.06.2015.**

O R D E R:

India is a sacred land where the people have been worshipping nature in various forms. As a mark of bhakti for a long time Harathi is being given to mother Ganga at Kashi. Similarly, Godavari river which is the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh is regarded as a sacred river and has been worshipped since times immemorial. During recent reviews on Godavari Pushkaram 2015, peoples representatives as well as officials and the media have represented that Godavari Harathi should be given on the lines of Ganga Harathi.

2) In this regard, a well known vouluntary organisation Buddhavarapu Charitable Trust (BCT) with its headquarters at Rajahmundry has been giving Godavari Harathi on every full moon day (Pournami) for the last five years. Their efforts have been highly appreciated by the people of Rajahmundry. The Commissioner, Endowments and Principal Secretary, Revenue (Endowments) Dept. have also visited Rajahmundry on Pournami day in the month of April, 2015 and witnessed the Godavari Haarati. It was conducted in great style. In view of this, the Commissioner of Endowments was directed to explore possibilities of partnering with Buddhavarapu Charitable Trust for co-hosting this activity every day hereafter.

3) The following broad guidelines can be issued in this regard to the Commissioner, Endowments for implementation of Godavari Harathi Scheme:

1. Henceforth Godavari Harathi will be given every day in the evening after sun set.

2. The expenditure on this account will be borne in the ratio of 75:25 by Endowments department and Buddhavarapu Charitable Trust. The Commissioner, Endowments will finalise the expenditure incurred every day on this activity in consultation with B.C.T. Once a year this amount can be revised through mutual consultation.

ROLE OF IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT:

1. The Irrigation Department will permit BCT to make necessary arrangements near the Ghats and ensure that the Harathi ritual to the river Godavari is performed every day hereafter.

2. The Irrigation department will provide 2 punts free of cost during July, 2015 and also on festival days when Godavari Akhanda Harathi will be performed on Punts which will be floating in the river Godavari. The public will be seated at the ghats.

ROLE OF RAJAHMUNDRY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION:

1. Two rooms will be exclusively allocated by the Commissioner, Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation free of charge to the BCT for the purpose of changing dress (by Purohits) and also for keeping various puja materials.

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ROLE OF BUDDAVARAPU CHARITABLE TRUST:

1. BCT will be overall responsible for conducting the Harathi every day.

2. BCT will take responsibility and improve the lighting and sound system near the ghats to make the ritual more attractive.

3. BCT will procure all the necessary hardware (puja equipment) as a one time effort from its own funds as also all consumable items connected with the ritual on a regular basis.

4. BCT will be responsible for hiring two teams of Purohits and ensure that there is no interruption to giving Godavari Harathi even for one day.

5. BCT will provide specially designed traditional dress to the Purohits.

6. Remuneration of the Purohits who will perform the rituals will be paid by the BCT only. They will not be on the pay rolls of the Endowments Department.

7. BCT will give a one page brief report certifying that the Harathi has been given regularly on all days of the month.

8. Commissioner, Endowments will release department's share of the expenditure by 10th of every succeeding month.

9. BCT will give three types of Harathi:

   A. The regular Harathi will be given on all normal days of the year (on Ghats only).

   B. There will be a **Godavari Maha Harathi** on all full moon days (Pournami) (on Ghats only).

   C. There will be a **Godavari Akhanda Harathi** (on Punts) which will be given on 15 important Hindu festival days as follows:

      1) Sankranti
      2) Maha Shivaratri
      3) Ugaadi
      4) Srirama Navami
      5) Shankara Jayanthi
      6) Guru Pournima
      7) Sri Krishna Ashtami
      8) Sravana Shukravaram
      9) Vinayaka Chaturthi
      10) Durgaashtami
      11) Maharnavami
      12) Vijaya Dasami
      13) Deepavalli
      14) Karthika Pournami
      15) Vaikunta Ekadashi

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ROLE OF TOURISM & I&PR DEPARTMENTS:

1. The Tourism Department will be asked to include the Harathi program in their tourist Itinerary while designing package tours in Godavari districts.

2. Tourism Department and I&PR Department will also regularly give wide publicity to this event.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.S.V. PRASAD
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Commissioner of Endowments, AP Hyderabad.
The Chairman, Buddavarapu Charitable Trust.
The Principal Secretary, YAT&C Department, AP Secretariat.
The Principal Secretary, I&CAD Department, AP Secretariat.
The Principal Secretary, I&PR Department, AP Secretariat.
The Collector, East Godavari District.
The Collector, West Godavari District.
The Special Officer, Godavari Pushkaram and MC, Rajahmundry.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER